MULTIMEDIA UNIVERSITY

STUDENT ID NO

MULTIMEDIA UNIVERSITY

FINAL EXAMINATION

TRIMESTER 3, 2016/2017

PGP1010 – ENGLISH FOR GENERAL PURPOSES

(All Sections)

26 MAY 2017
9.00 a.m. – 11.00 a.m.
(2 Hours)

INSTRUCTIONS TO STUDENT

1. This question paper consists of **THIRTEEN** pages with **TWO** sections only.
2. Answer **ALL** questions.
3. Write **ALL** your answers in the question paper.

SECTION A: READING COMPREHENSION [30 MARKS]

Instructions: For each question, choose the most appropriate answer. Shade your answers for questions 1-30 on the **OMR** sheet provided in the question paper.

Questions 1 to 7 are based on the following passage.

Divorce

1 The Romans had an interesting view towards marriage- *matrimonia debent esse libera* or "marriages ought to be free". This meant that either spouse could opt out of the marriage if things were not working out for them. Centuries later, Victorian England had a vastly different view. People got married and stayed together for better or for worse. Society frowned on divorce and divorced people were likely to find themselves social **pariahs**.

2 In the present century, both these views prevail. It depends on which part of the planet you live in and in what kind of culture. Divorce rates are higher in European or American countries, where individual freedom is given greater emphasis, than in, say, Asian or African ones, where familial and social opinions are more important. With globalisation, of course, the "backward" countries are catching up. Women, especially, with access to higher education and cultural moralists are having a field day, predicting dire consequences for the "social fabric". However, it is important to be aware that though divorce is not joy-inducing, neither is a corrosive marriage. In such a case, splitting up is preferable to staying together "for the children" or to keep up social appearances.

3 There are many different and complex causes and reasons for divorce, each of them specific to that particular couple's marital relationship, their individual experiences and personal problems. None of them may seem "common" to the people going through a divorce, of course, but many of the reasons recur enough to warrant the term.

4 Some of the frequently cited reasons for causing divorce are lack of commitment to the marriage, lack of communication between spouses, infidelity, alcohol addiction, substance, physical, sexual or emotional abuse, personality differences, differences in personal and career goals and financial problems. Other reasons include different expectations about household tasks and about having or rearing children, interference from parents or in-laws, differences in religious beliefs and cultural and lifestyle differences, among others.

5 Research done on the causes of divorce reveals that lack of communication is one of the leading causes of divorce. A marriage is on the rocks when the lines of communication fail. You cannot have an effective relationship if either one of you will not discuss your feelings, cannot talk about your mutual or personal issues, will keep your resentments simmering under wraps, and expect your partner to guess what the whole problem is about. Divorces often happen because people rarely discuss their expectations in detail prior to marriage, are less willing to work on their marriages afterwards, and would like quick solutions rather than having resolve issues. People have got divorced for trivial reasons like snoring.

6 People who come from divorced homes are more likely to get divorced than people who come from happy married households. Divorce seems less like a big deal

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if you have seen your parents go through with it. People who get married between the ages of 23 to 27 are more likely to stay together than people who get married in their teens. People who cohabit before marriage have higher rates of divorce than people who did not cohabit before marriage. In many cases, quite a few of the problems that cause divorce have existed in the couple's relationship long before they got married. The problems were either not acknowledged or were ignored in the fond hope that marriage might offer a miraculous panacea. Marriage does not. Nobody can make you feel better about yourself and you cannot change and save anybody. As someone wise once said, it takes two wholes to make a marriage, not two halves.

Adapted from Sonia Panse (2010) Divorce .
Retrieved from http://www.buzzle.com/articles/common_causes_and_reasons_for_divorce_html

1. The Roman' view towards marriage was practical.
   A. True
   B. False
   C. Not stated

2. Today, there appears to be positive co-relation between divorce rates and places where individuals enjoy greater freedom.
   A. True
   B. False
   C. Not stated

3. What the family or society thinks will always be paramount in conservative countries.
   A. True
   B. False
   C. Not stated

4. The meaning of pariahs (line 6) is _____.
   A. outcasts
   B. recluses
   C. criminals

5. More women now have a greater option of divorce for the following reasons EXCEPT
   A. Women now are highly educated
   B. Women now have jobs that pay more
   C. Women now have greater professional expectations

6. The best summary of paragraph 5 is _____.
   A. Lack of communication is one of the leading causes of divorce.
   B. You cannot have an effective relationship if either one of you will not discuss you feelings.
   C. Divorces often happen because people rarely discuss their expectations in detail prior to marriage.

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7. The writer's tone is _____.
   A. critical
   B. emotional
   C. sympathetic

Questions 8 to 14 are based on the following passage.

Cadet Training

1 Each of parading squadrons was graded as it marched past the reviewing stand, where a bloated colonel with a big fat moustache sat with the other officers. The best squadron in each wing won a yellow pennant on a pole that was utterly worthless. The best squadron on the base won a red pennant on a longer pole that was worth even less, since the pole was heavier and was much more of a nuisance to lug around all week until some other squadron won it the following Sunday. To Youssarian, the idea of pennants as prizes was absurd. No money went with them, no class privileges. Like the Olympic medals and tennis trophies, all they signified was that the owner had done something of no benefit to anyone more capably than everyone else.

2 The parades themselves seemed equally absurd. Youssarian hated parades. Parades were so martial. He hated hearing them, hated being tied up in traffic by them. He hated being made to take part in them. It was bad enough being an aviation cadet without having to act like a soldier in the blistering heat every Sunday afternoon. It was bad enough being an aviation cadet because it was obvious now that the war would not be over before he had finished his training. That was the only reason he had volunteered for cadet training in the first place. As a soldier who had qualified for aviation cadet training, he had weeks and weeks of waiting for assignment to a class, weeks and weeks more to become a bombardier-navigator, weeks and weeks more of operational training after that to prepare him for overseas duty. It seemed inconceivable then that the war could last that long, for God was on his side, he had been told, and God, he had also been told, could do whatever He wanted to. But the war was not nearly over, and his training was almost complete.

3 Lieutenant Scheisskopf longed desperately to win parades and sat up half the night working on it. There it was Sunday already, with only seven days left in the week to get ready for the next parade. He had no idea where the hours went. Finishing last in three successive parades had given Lieutenant Scheisskopf an unsavoury reputation, and he considered every means of improvement, even nailing the twelve men in each rank to a long two-by-four beam of seasoned oak to keep them in line. The plan was not feasible, for making a ninety-degree turn would have been impossible without nickel-alloy swivels inserted in the small of every man's back, and Lieutenant Scheisskopf was not sanguine at all about obtaining that many nickel-alloy swivels from the Quartermaster or enlisting the cooperation of the surgeons at the hospital.

4 The week after Lieutenant Scheisskopf followed Clevinger's recommendation and let the men elect their own cadet officers, the squadron won the yellow pennant. The next week, the squadron won the red flag, and Lieutenant Scheisskopf was beside him with rapture. And the week after that his squadron made history by winning the red pennant two weeks in a row! Now Lieutenant Scheisskopf had confidence enough in his powers to spring his big surprise. Lieutenat Scheisskopf had discovered in his extensive research that

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the hands of marchers, instead of swinging freely, as was then popular fashion, ought never to be moved more than three inches from the centre of the thigh, which meant, in effect, that they were scarcely to be swung at all. 40

Adapted from "Catch 22" by Joseph Heller 2012
Retrieved from http://www.sparknotes.com/lit/catch22/summary.html

8. Why did Youssarian feel that the awards were useless?
   I. There was no cash value.
   II. The red pennant was too heavy.
   III. They did not bring any special privileges.
   IV. The colours of the pennants were not attractive.
   A. I and III
   B. I and IV
   C. II and III

9. What is the best word that describe Youssarian's character? He was _____.
   A. stoic
   B. astute
   C. practical

10. Youssarian considered war and anything that was related to it _____.
    A. fabulous
    B. analogous
    C. ridiculous

11. Youssarian was forced to be a soldier and he tried to evade it by _____.
    A. becoming an aviation cadet
    B. receiving operational training
    C. training to be a bombarder-navigator

12. What was Youssarian's perception towards God ending the war (lines 18-19)?
    A. He was sceptical about it.
    B. He was sure it would end soon.
    C. He feared he would have been killed by then.

13. Lieutenant Scheisskopf discounted the idea of nailing his men to a wooden pole because they would not have been able to _____.
    A. turn correctly
    B. walk properly
    C. laugh heartily

14. The word *sanguine* (line 29) can be best replaced with _____.
    A. placid
    B. hopeful
    C. energetic

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Questions 15 to 22 are based on the following passage.

Hybridisation

1 We have probably all heard the stories about Frankenstein experiments gone awry and creatures being crossed that would never have bred together in nature. Or perhaps we heard stories growing up about cabbits and griffins and wondered if they might really exist.

2 Hybrids are a touchy issue that have been on our collective conscience for millennia. They make us think about the world around us and the *'taboo'* which we enforce. Why would man want to create hybrids and what has he already made? Are these hybrids in nature? All of these are good questions and ones which can be easily answered but before we start we must learn the technical meaning of what a hybrid really is. A hybrid is an animal (or plant) that has been created by breeding two parents of wholly different species. Whether this was a natural occurrence or something done in a test tube does not matter, the result is the same.

3 Here are three common misconceptions. '**Hybrids are a flight of fancy**, they don't actually exist.' This just isn't true. They are everywhere in our world. 'Theirs is no such thing as a hybrid born in the world without the help of a man.'Again, this is falsehood. Certain species can and occasionally will interbreed, particularly if a partner of their own species cannot be found. 'All hybrids are sterile.' This is a misconception that comes from applying the rule of mules to the rest of hybrid world. Mules, the world's most well- known hybrid, are indeed usually sterile. Other hybrids can be sterile as well but this is actually the exception, not the rule.

4 Equine hybrids are probably the best documented as people have been fussing over them for at least 100 years and probably well before that. Geneticists generally start here in order to begin to understand the wild world of hybridization. Bovine hybrids are not terribly well known but are common in most parts of the world. They are generally crosses that yield a more productive and multi-tasked animal. These animals are used for meat, as beasts of burden, for fibre and for subtle curiosity.

5 Livestock animals are generally crossed for a purpose. Most are a breeder's attempt to gain more desirable characteristics in their herd, not just to create an interesting looking cross, as mankind seems to like to do with other species of animals. Some of these, of course, are just the occasional barnyard accident as well and completely unintentional on their keeper's part.

6 Canid hybrids are almost always the work of man, although some are viable to be created in the wild as well. We, as a species, are curious about the origins of dogs and often are mesmerised by wild canids. Sometimes this can result in breeding for a specified purpose, but most often, these creations are more a product of our own insatiable curiosity than anything else.

7 A Chinese proverb tells us man domesticated the cat so that he could pet a tiger. This is a wise saying and probably at least partially true. Cat enthusiasts the world over have aspired to have a house pet with the wild and bold markings of some of their favourite wild species. This has caused some pretty interesting hybrids to result, usually in pursuit of this goal. This is a very tricky process and should not be taken lightly by any breeder. Crossing your tabby with a wild beast

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probably will not result in the image you have in your head. In fact you could create a house shredding monster. Nonetheless, we continue with our vast feline experiments.

8 Primates are one of the few groups of hybrids which actually occur more often in the wild then they do in captivity. Gibbons have been known to interbreed freely to create hybrid offspring, a considerable problem when uninformed zoos are concerned. Many monkey species can cross and the offspring can sometimes be indistinguishable from one of its pure parents. Baboons can be interbreeding with macaques and rhesus monkeys (the latter due to human activity). Similarly, Bornean and Sumatran orang-utans can be interbreed, but unlike the others listed, their offspring are often weak and infertile in comparison.

9 This brings us to the most taboo hybrid of them all, human hybrids. Technically speaking it is a not likely human can have viable offspring with other primate species. However, chimpanzees are fairly closely related to us and experiments have been reported since the turn of the century in America and the former USSR. These experiments either came up with nothing or they did come up with something that was hence covered up.

10 Proof of human hybridization was however; found a few years back when anthropologists unearthed the 24,000-year old grave of a young boy in Portugal. The child shared 50% of its characteristics with the strong and stout Neanderthal and 50% with those modern humans. A theory was then taken into consideration that Neanderthals may not have gone extinct but rather was absorbed into our own population through interbreeding. Neanderthals were presumably close enough to us genetically to interbreed as we shared the same evolutionary branch and have been theorised to be cousins as far as species go. If this is indeed the case, we will probably never know, though it is an interesting line of thought.

Adapted from Theophanes 2010.Retrieved from , http://theophanes.hubpages.com/hub/Animal_Hybridization)

15. What is the best meaning of the word '*taboo*' in line *6?*
    A. Illicit
    B. Unlawful
    C. Forbidden

16. Which of the following statements is true?
    A. A hybrid is a cross of two species.
    B. Hybridization cannot occur with two different species.
    C. A hybrid is an inevitable result when two species occupy the same habitat.

17. 'Hybrids are a flight of fancy' in paragraph 3 (line 14) means that
    A. hybrids are imaginary.
    B. almost all hybrids can fly.
    C. hybrids are more beautiful than normal animals.

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18. Bovine hybrids are bred for many reasons EXCEPT
    A. as a means of transportation.
    B. to perform highly skilled tasks.
    C. as a source of protein for human.

19. One of the following is NOT a reason for hybridization.
    A. Animal instinct
    B. Animal curiosity
    C. Greater productivity

20. The main idea of paragraph 8 is
    A. Primates are one of the few groups of hybrids which actually occur more often in the wild then they do in captivity.
    B. Gibbons have been known to interbreed freely to create hybrid offspring, a considerable problem when uninformed zoos are created.
    C. Similarly Bornean and Sumatran orang-utans can be interbreed, but unlike the others listed, their offspring are often weak and infertile in comparison.

21. In paragraph 9, what is the writer implying in the line 61...*they did come up with something that was hence covered up?*
    A. Nothing resulted from the attempts to create human hybrids.
    B. Nothing beneficial resulted from the attempts to create human hybrids.
    C. Something terrible resulted from the attempts to create human hybrids.

22. Which of the following statements is NOT a fact?
    A. Neanderthals were absorbed into the human population through interbreeding.
    B. The child shared equal characteristics of both the Neanderthals and modern humans.
    C. Proof of human hybridization was found in the 24,000- year-old grave of a young boy in Portugal.

*Questions **23** to **30** are based on the following passage.*

1 The Malaysian Agricultural Park in Shah Alam is one of the world's agro-forestry park. This 1258 hectare park is the ultimate rainforest resort, a living proof of Malaysia's commitment to conservation of the environment. The park remains pristine and untouched. Strict regulations are enforced to prevent indiscriminate felling of the trees. Only selected trees are felled in order to preserve this park as a natural forest reserve. The park is also a research and educational centre, a family getaway, and a wildlife sanctuary all rolled into one.

2 As a research and educational centre, the Agricultural Park provides hands-on experience. There is a laboratory for plant experiments and animal husbandry. It also showcases the nation's achievements in agricultural development. The park is divided into numerous zones and each zone highlights a specific aspect of agriculture. There is one area devoted to paddy cultivation where the different stages of paddy cultivation are seen. There is also a mini rice mill to show how the husks are removed and the rice refined. Rest sheds are strategically located to offer shade and rest for visitors.

3 The park is also excellent for family outings. There is so much for one to do

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and explore here. Various live demonstrations and cultural exhibitions are held in the park. Besides that, there are recreational facilities, picnic spots, a mini zoo, an aviary, and nature trails. *Indeed, a full day is needed to do the park justice.*

4 In addition to the amenities provided, there are many other interesting things to see here. There is a hanging bridge which costs RM 1 to walk across. It is quite an experience to walk on it as each time the wind blows, the bridge sways and one has to cling onto it desperately. Then, there is a quaint *kampung* recreated at the Idyllic Village. The whole scenario resembles a typical *kampung* with wooden houses on stilts, traditional resting places or *wakaf, surau, sepak takraw* court, and even a *lesong.*

5 There are many other not-to-be missed attractions here. The Tropical Fruit Orchard is an integrated orchard of local Malaysian fruit trees. The Orchid Garden has an astounding array of different species of orchids. The Spice and Beverage Garden displays all types of spices. The Tree House which rises to 18 metres gives a stunning view of the surrounding area. Finally, the Ornamental Garden which is laid out in geometric patterns is very eye-catching, especially when seen from the Tree House.

6 A must-visit place at the park is the Four Seasons Temperate House, which is a wonder to behold. The climate maintained inside this house is based on that of a place in New Zealand. One can experience winter in the heat of the tropics or experience spring! The whole place is enclosed within glass walls as the temperatures have to be closely monitored.

7 One can also find selected animals at the park such as rabbits, mousedeer, sheep, miniature horses and other livestock. These animals are kept in enclosures where visitors not only can see *them* but touch them as well. There is also an aviary where birds are caged. This is one place where everywhere one goes, one's senses are assailed with chirping of birds, the buzzing of insects and the unidentifiable sounds of the jungle.

8 So, you have it all here! So much to see and experience at the Malaysia Agricultural Park. Make a date and spend a whole fruitful day at the park. You have nothing to lose but everything to gain!

Adapted from Selangorku (2016)
Retrieved from www.malaysiavacationguide.com/shahalam.html.

23. The writer's aim is to _____ the Agricultural Park.
    A. improve
    B. introduce
    C. popularise
    D. sensationalise

24. The creation of the park proves that Malaysia is committed to the conservation of
    A. solar energy.
    B. water resources.
    C. the environment.
    D. Malaysian values.

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25. The park is divided into numerous zones _____.
    A. so that research can be conducted.
    B. so that visitors will not lose their way.
    C. to facilitate research and development.
    D. to highlight specific aspects of agriculture.

26. The agro-forestry park was created for the following reasons EXCEPT as
    A. a family getaway.
    B. a wildlife sanctuary.
    C. an agricultural supply centre.
    D. an agricultural research centre.

27. *them* in line 41 refers to the _____
    A. animals in the orchard
    B. animals that roamed freely
    C. animals in the forest reserve
    D. animals kept in enclosures at the park

28. A typical *kampung* has been created in the park to_____.
    A. promote *kampung* architecture
    B. encourage rural-urban migration
    C. remind *kampung* people of their roots
    D. enable people to experience *kampung* settings

29. The Malaysia Agricultural Park _____ the experience of living in a forest.
    A. explores
    B. transfers
    C. recreates
    D. highlights

30. *Indeed, a full day is needed to do the park justice* (line 19) means that one must spend a whole day to _____.
    A. get back one's money worth
    B. recognise the true value of the park
    C. study about all the animals in the park
    D. observe the different stages of paddy cultivation

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MCQ Answer Sheet

1. (A) (B) (C) (D)
2. (A) (B) (C) (D)
3. (A) (B) (C) (D)
4. (A) (B) (C) (D)
5. (A) (B) (C) (D)
6. (A) (B) (C) (D)
7. (A) (B) (C) (D)
8. (A) (B) (C) (D)
9. (A) (B) (C) (D)
10. (A) (B) (C) (D)
11. (A) (B) (C) (D)
12. (A) (B) (C) (D)
13. (A) (B) (C) (D)
14. (A) (B) (C) (D)
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24. (A) (B) (C) (D)
25. (A) (B) (C) (D)
26. (A) (B) (C) (D)
27. (A) (B) (C) (D)
28. (A) (B) (C) (D)
29. (A) (B) (C) (D)
30. (A) (B) (C) (D)

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SECTION B: WRITING [20 MARKS]

Instructions: You are advised to spend about **50 minutes** on this task.

"Smoking in Public Places Should Be Banned" What is your opinion? You should write **at least 350** words. Support your opinion with examples.

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